

[July Miles]

FORM A Circumstances of Interview

NAME OF WORKER Fred D. Dixon ADDRESS 2889 Ohio St.

DATE Nov. [10?], 1938 SUBJECT Negro History

1. Name and address of informant July Miles —2306 N. 29 St.

2. Date and time of interview Nov. 10, 1938 @ 1:00 to 3:30

3. Place of interview In the home of Mr. Miles

4. Name and address or person, if any, who put you in touch with informant Travis Dixon —2889 Ohio St.

5. Name and address of person, if any, accompanying you

No one

6. Description of room, house, surroundings, etc. The home and surroundings seem to indicate a modest standard of living. The living room was decorated with old pictures of Mr. Miles that were perhaps fifty years of age. He seemed very proud of them. The furniture was the usual that is found in the typical middle class home.

FORM B

NAME OF WORKER Fred D. Dixon ADDRESS 2889 Ohio St.

DATE Nov. 14, 1938 SUBJECT Negro History

Library of Congress

NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT July Miles 2306 N. 29 St.

1. Ancestry Negro
2. Place and date of birth Mobile Alabama-1848 as near as he can remember.
3. Family Mr. [Miles'?] family consist of a wife. He has a daughter by a previous marriage.
4. Place lived in, with dates Mr. Miles first came to Omaha in 1892 to live. Prior to that time he had made many trips to Omaha while working for the Union Pacific RR. [Before] coming to Omaha Mr. Miles had made his home in Mobile Alabama.
5. Education, with dates Mr. Miles has never attended any school. He learned to write his name and then to read a little. He learned the alphabet first then by learning to write his name he said that it was very easy to learn to read.
6. Occupations and accomplishments, with dates Mr. Miles is a G.A.R. veteran and is receiving a pension.
7. Special skills and interests Mr. Miles has no special skills and his only interests seem to be in talking of Civil War days.
8. Community and religious activities Mr. Miles is to old and feeble to be of any use to his community in an active way. He is a member of the Mt. Moriah Baptist church, and usually attend church if the weather permits him to get about.
9. Description of informant Mr. Miles is a dark skinned, slightly stooped aged individual. He wears a grayed beard that is well kept. He is shorter in height than the average person, and is very thin.
10. Other points gained in interview Worker learned of Civil war days through the interview. And also more of railroading during the early `80 and `90.

Library of Congress

FORM C Text of interview (Unedited)

NAME OF WORKER FredD. Dixon ADDRESS 2889 Ohio St.

DATE Nov. 14, 1938 SUBJECT Negro History

NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT July Miles - 2306 N. 29 St.

Worker was not able to give very much information from Mr. Miles that will be of value to the survey as he [continually*] talk talks * of Reconstruction days and of working on the boats of the Mississippi river.

However Mr. Miles said that when he came to Omaha there was about six hundred Negroes in Omaha and that most of them were engaged in doing the same type of work that most of them are doing now. He said that a few were working for the Union Pacific RR. as waiters and pullman porters. Mr. Miles was born in Mobile Alabama of slave parents about 1848. He said that he was owned by a very good man and that his family was always very happy. Their owner a Mr. Revenal was unusually kind and allowed them the privilege of going about any time of day or night, without a guard.

When the war was over and he was given his freedom he worked as a helper on various boats on the Mississippi river. His brother had left for New York and had secured work on a private car of one of the officials of the railroad. Then he needed a helper he sent for Mr. Miles and they both worked on private cars of various officials for a number of years, travelling all over the United States. Finally Mr. Miles asked for a transfer to the Pullman division of the railroad and he was stationed in Omaha. He married in Omaha and has lived here since 1892. He spoke of the early churches of the Negroes of Omaha, stating that he is one of the oldest members of the Mt. Moriah Baptist church. Mr. Miles said that he was never very active in community life and therefore could not give very much information to the worker that would be of any value to the survey.

Library of Congress

Mr. Miles was unable to attend the Reunion at Gettysburg this summer due to illness. Mr. Miles is one of two G. A. R. veterans living in Omaha and he is very proud of this fact. He is also the oldest ex-railroad employ living here. He asked worker to contact his daughter and that she could give any information that will be of value to the survey.